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# CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views  
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

**Congressman Gary G. Miller**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> District, California**



July 20, 2007

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## **Congressman Miller Secures Funds for Vital Local Projects**

This week, the House passed two appropriations bill to fund a wide range of domestic agencies and programs. In addition to fulfilling our national needs, these bills provide valuable seed money for important local projects in Southern California. The Fiscal Year 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which passed on Tuesday, includes \$21 million for the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project to provide flood protection to more than 3 million people in the region. This bill also includes \$2.5 million for the Orange County Regional Water Reclamation Project which aims to reduce local dependence on water from the Colorado River and San Francisco Bay Delta. In addition, on Thursday, the House passed the Fiscal Year 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, which includes \$200,000 for improvements to the new library in the City of Chino Hills and \$150,000 for patient call system upgrades at the Children's Hospital of Orange County facility at Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo. Congressman Miller was proud to request these projects, which will together help to improve the water resources, educational achievement, and health care services of district residents.

## **House Passes Amendments to Deter Illegal Workers**

During consideration of the Fiscal Year 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill this week, the House approved two amendments designed to crack down on illegal immigration. One amendment, which passed the House unanimously, would prevent federal funding from being used to employ illegal aliens. A provision was also added to stop the implementation of a proposal to require the United States to repay Mexican nationals who worked and paid Social Security taxes in the U.S. Congressman Miller believes strongly that such a proposal would overwhelm our borders and our Social Security system. He was proud to lend his support to both of these amendments, which will help deter individuals from breaking our nation's immigration and work laws.

## **Congressman Miller Opposes Unreasonable Expansion of Clean Water Act**

This week, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee reviewed a proposal that would allow the federal government to regulate all water in the United States, including water in drinking water facilities, gutters, pipes, and even backyard pools and ponds. Under the Clean Water Act, the federal government currently protects certain waters such as lakes and rivers while states protect the rest. Congressman Miller, who serves on the panel, is concerned that expanding federal regulation over local water resources could result in an overly burdensome regulatory process that would sap precious resources and severely restrict state and local decision-making authority over land and water use. While restoring and maintaining the integrity of our nation's waters is of critical importance, it is equally important to ensure this goal does not leave local communities in a state of regulatory crisis. Congressman Miller will continue to any oppose unnecessary expansion of federal regulation over local water resources.

## **Mint Issues New Presidential Dollar Coin Series**

Earlier this year, the U.S. Mint began releasing the first in a series of presidential one dollar coins. Similar to the popular state quarter program, the Mint will be releasing a new coin every three months through 2016 honoring our nation's presidents in the order in which they served. The coin features a former U.S. president on one side with the Statue of Liberty pictured on the reverse. Already in circulation are coins featuring George Washington and John Adams, with two more coins scheduled for release in August and November of this year honoring Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, respectively. These coins are currently available through local banks, credit unions, and the U.S. Mint. For further details on this exciting new program, please visit [http://www.usmint.gov/\\$1coin](http://www.usmint.gov/$1coin) or contact Congressman Miller's District Office at (714) 257-1142.